



# Department of Justice

## United States Attorney Dunn Lampton Southern District of Mississippi

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### **TWO MISSISSIPPI WOMEN SENTENCED FOR KATRINA FRAUD**

JACKSON, Miss. – Claudette Luckett and Samantha Lewis, both of Canton, Mississippi, were sentenced on July 18th by U.S. District Judge Daniel P. Jordan, III for submitting false claims to FEMA for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance funds, U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton announced today.

Luckett pled guilty in April, 2007, to causing \$5,375.41 to be mailed from FEMA by providing a false address in Biloxi, Mississippi. She was sentenced to 3 years supervised probation and ordered to pay restitution to FEMA in the amount of 5,375.41.

Lewis pled guilty in April, 2007, to causing \$10,090.00 to be mailed from FEMA and the Department of Labor by providing a false address in Biloxi, Mississippi. She was sentenced to 5 years of supervised probation, 40 hours of community service, restitution to FEMA in the amount of \$2,000.00, and restitution to the Department of Labor in the amount of \$8,190.00.

In September, 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the national Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force - chaired by Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Alice S. Fisher, includes members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, the Postal Inspector's Office and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force, consisting of over 20 Federal and State law enforcement agencies, was formed in the Southern District of Mississippi to pursue and prosecute individuals who engage in fraud associated with the hurricanes.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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